

App. No. 10/001,280
Amendment Dated: July 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were rejected by the Office Action. The Applicants respectfully disagree and present the following for consideration. No claims have been amended. No new matter was added.

Claim 15-19 were rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Edwards et al., (US Patent 6,662,356) (hereinafter Edwards). Claims 1-14 and 20 were rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as obvious by Edwards in view of (Wollrath et al., (US Patent 6,237,024) hereinafter Wollrath).

The Office Action states that the "applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131."

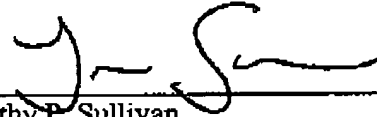
The Applicants note that the present application is a continuation-in-part application of the cited Edwards reference and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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